

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claim 31.

Applicant has filed a Terminal Disclaimer concurrently herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection based on copending U.S. Application 10/614,340.

The Examiner rejected claims 32 and 53-56 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contends that the specification as originally filed does not provide adequate support for: a) "the adhesive film being located only in a desired area of the backing film" (claim 32); b) "a first set of flock fibers adhere to the adhesive film and a second set of flock fibers do not adhere to the adhesive film" (claim 32); c) "forming a plurality of adhesive-containing areas and at least one area free of adhesive on a first surface of a backing film" (claim 53); and d) "applying flock to the adhesive-containing area but not to the at least one area free of adhesive" (claim 53).

The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Applicant submits that paragraphs 0071, 0081 and 0082 and Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the as filed application provides support for "the adhesive film being located only in a desired area of the backing film" phrase of claim 32, wherein paragraph 0071 states "step (e) may be replaced by locating a (discontinuously distributed) adhesive 14 onto backing film 104 only in desired areas." Paragraph 0081 and Figs. 7 and 8 disclose adhesive 14 be located only in desired areas on backing film 104 and Fig. 10 disclose adhesive 8 discontinuously distributed on backing film 104 with "periphery 905 of the backing film [is] free of flock" (paragraph 0082). Applicant also submits that paragraphs 0071, 0081 and 0083 and Figs. 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 provide support for "forming a plurality of adhesive-containing areas and at least one area free of adhesive on a first surface of a backing film" of claim 53.

Applicant submits that paragraph 0071 (and its reference to paragraphs 0062-0069) and paragraphs 0081-0083 and the Figs. 7-11 provide support for "applying flock to the adhesive-containing area but not to the at least one area free of adhesive" of claim 53 and for "a first set of flock fibers adhere to the adhesive film and a second set of flock fibers do not adhere to the adhesive film" of claim 32, as for example, "the flocked design 500 is located on only a portion of the exterior surface 504" (paragraph 0081) and Figs. 7 and 8; and "in one configuration, flock 8 (and optionally release sheet and release adhesive) are located in only a central section 900 of the backing film 104 while the outer periphery 904 of the backing film is free of flock" (paragraph 0082) and Figs. 9-11.

The Examiner rejects Claims 27, 29, 30, 33-40, 42-47, and 49-51 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 56-058824 ("Kondo et al.") in view of JP 58-062027 ("Moriyama et al."), U.S. 4,810,549 to Abrams, et al., and U.S. 6,646,022 to Okazaki, et al.

In an interview with the Examiner on August 27, 2007, in copending U.S. Application 10/394,357 the Examiner indicated that limitations contained in claims 27 and 53 would overcome the combined teachings of Kondo, et al., Moriyama, et al., and Abrams, et al. Applicant submits that Okazaki, et al., fails to overcome the deficiencies of these references.

Accordingly, the rejected claims are allowable.

Applicant has added new claims 57-58. Independent claim 57 is a combination of independent claim 27, intervening dependent claim 30, and allowable dependent claim 31.

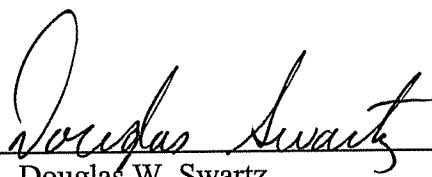
Accordingly, the newly added claims are allowable.

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Reply to Office Action of June 1, 2007

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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